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Multi-Species Recovery Plan Implementation

Presented by Cindy Schulz





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Recovery

Recovery plans ensure coordinated, effective recovery actions to reverse the decline of listed species

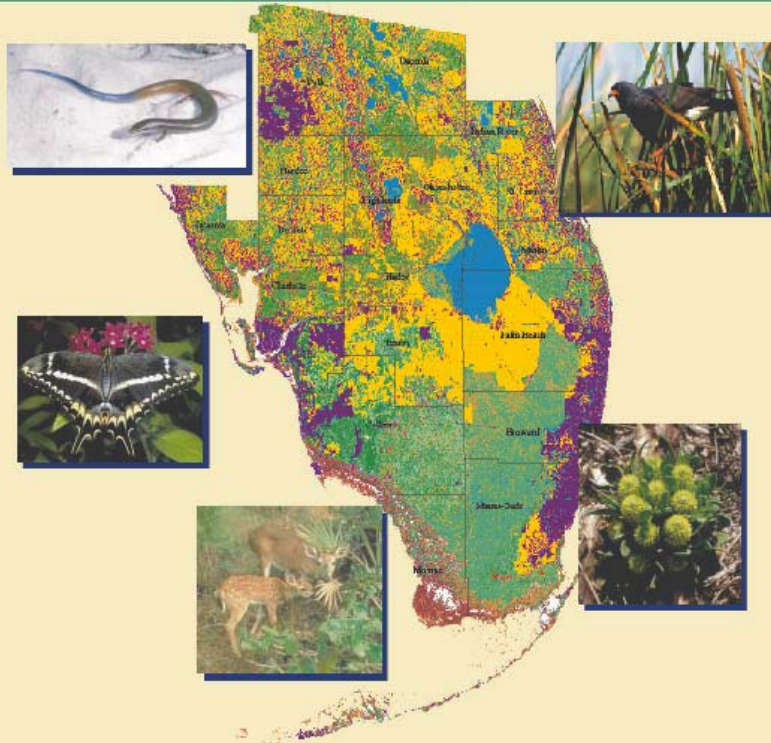




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SOUTH FLORIDA MULTI-SPECIES RECOVERY PLAN

A Species Plan...
an Ecosystem Approach



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Southeast Region

South Florida Multi-Species Recovery Plan

A SPECIES PLAN...
AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Southeast Region

Approved
May 1999



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The MSRP was conceived to fulfill one of the major elements and the first two objectives of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Initiative

- Recover threatened and endangered species in South Florida
- Restore and maintain biodiversity of the natural communities





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Geographic Scope of the MSRP

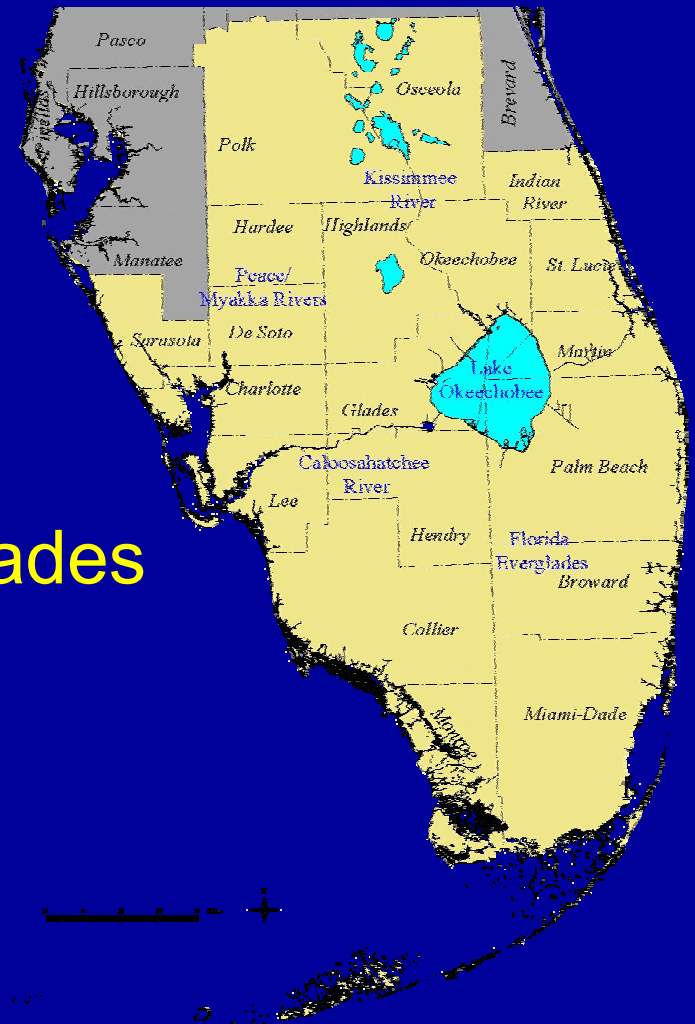
19 counties in South Florida

Major watersheds:

Kissimmee/Okeechobee/Everglades

Caloosahatchee River

Peace/Myakka Rivers





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An Ecosystem Approach to Recovery Planning

68 Species

Description

Distribution

Ecology

Status/Trends

Management

Recovery

23 Natural Communities

Description

Status/Trends

Management

Restoration



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MSRP Implementation

Interagency Coordination, Partnerships, Species Recovery Actions, Ecosystem Restoration Actions

MERIT

Multi-species / Ecosystem Recovery Implementation Team

36 members: Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Governments; Academia; Industry; Private Sector



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Implementation Strategy

A regional landscape approach to recovery of threatened and endangered species and conservation of biodiversity in South Florida



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MERIT Goals

- Recover listed species using an ecosystem approach
- Coordinate governmental, NGO, and private efforts
- Exchange information with the Working Group
- Promote outreach to involve the public
- Evaluate success with monitoring and adaptive management



MERIT

- Provide assistance in prioritizing recovery actions for MSRP implementation schedule
- Develop implementation strategy as guidance for community restoration and species recovery needs
- Provide oversight for critical species / community issues



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MERIT Subteams

Landscape Subteam - provide expertise on GIS analysis, land conservation needs, land use planning, integration with CERP

Species/Communities Subteam - prioritize restoration and recovery tasks, provide expertise on species/community issues

Conservation Incentives Subteam - provide input on funding sources, landowner incentives, outreach



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Landscape Subteam

- Prioritizing habitat areas
- Developing maps of spatial distribution of species
- Assessing opportunities to maximize conservation efforts
- Addressing potential conflicts in conservation objectives





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Species / Communities Subteam

Developed a Community-Based Approach for the
MSRP Implementation Schedule

Assisting Landscape Subteam in
gathering/confirming species and
ecological community information

Conducting risk assessments /
Population Viability Analyses for
habitats and species





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Conservation Incentives Subteam

Working to provide incentives and opportunities for private landowners and other partners to benefit species recovery and habitat restoration efforts while providing additional benefits to the landowner



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Regional Landscape Approach to Conservation

Recognizes the importance of interactions between the built environment, rural lands, and native ecosystems, and incorporates research, planning, and management at appropriately large spatial and temporal scales so that land uses are effectively integrated to maximize compatibility and ensure the conservation of biological diversity



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Implementation Strategy

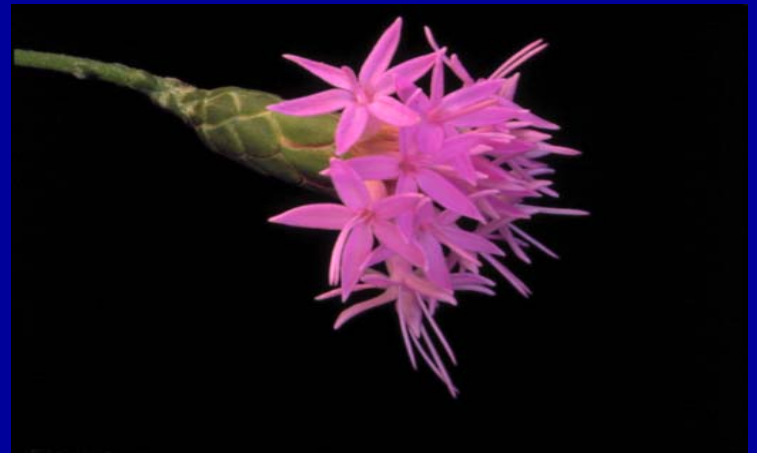
Species Recovery / Habitat Restoration / Project Planning





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Community-level Species Recovery





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Habitat Restoration/Land Management



**Prescribed fire /
invasive plant control**



**Restore natural hydrology
(quality, quantity, timing, duration)**



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Guidance for Project Planning

Habitat assessment

Species' distributions

Management actions

Conservation
recommendations

Planning alternatives





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RECOVER Assessment

- Conceptual models & research priorities
- Biological performance measures
- Regional and project-specific monitoring
- Coordinate scientific peer reviews



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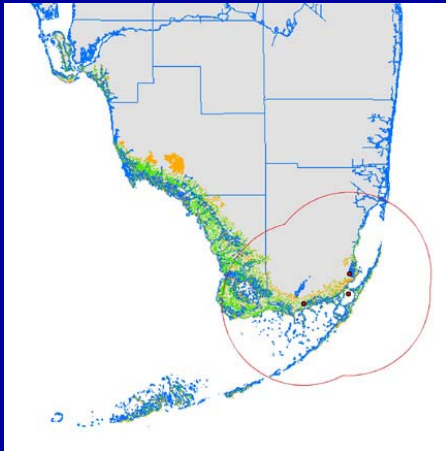
RECOVER Development

- Incorporate information from MSRP and MERIT Implementation Strategy into project planning
- Integrate MERIT modeling into project evaluation

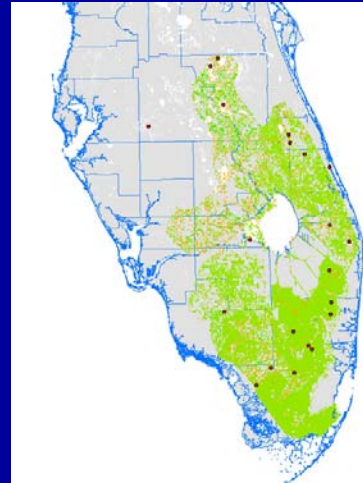




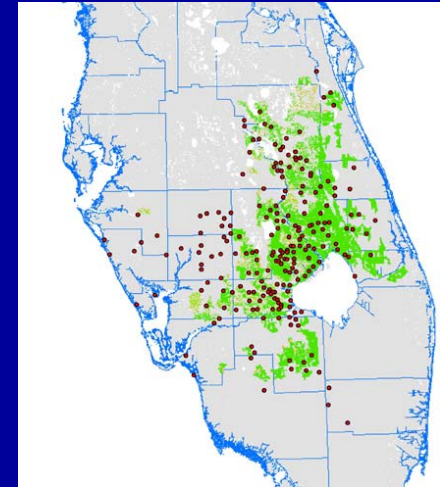
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Crocodile

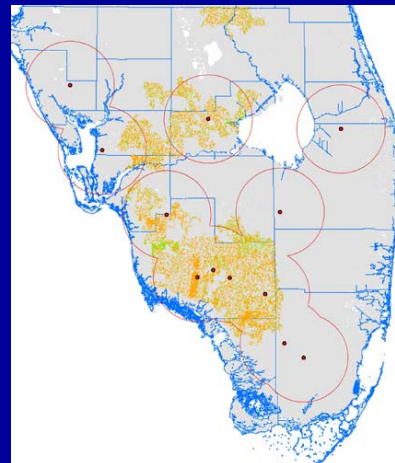


Snail kite

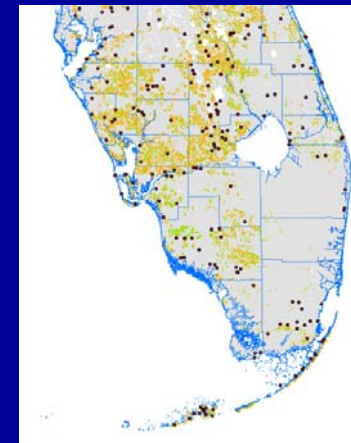


Caracara





MSRP T&E Models



Panther

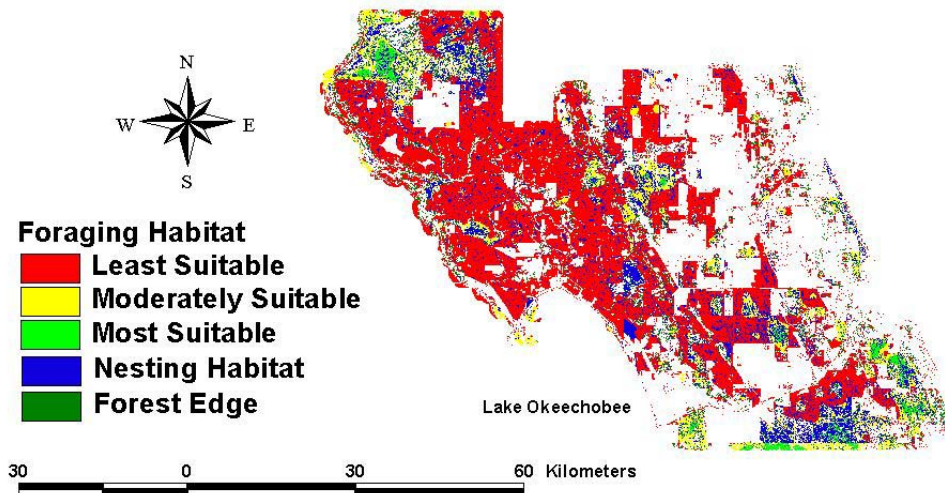


Indigo snake

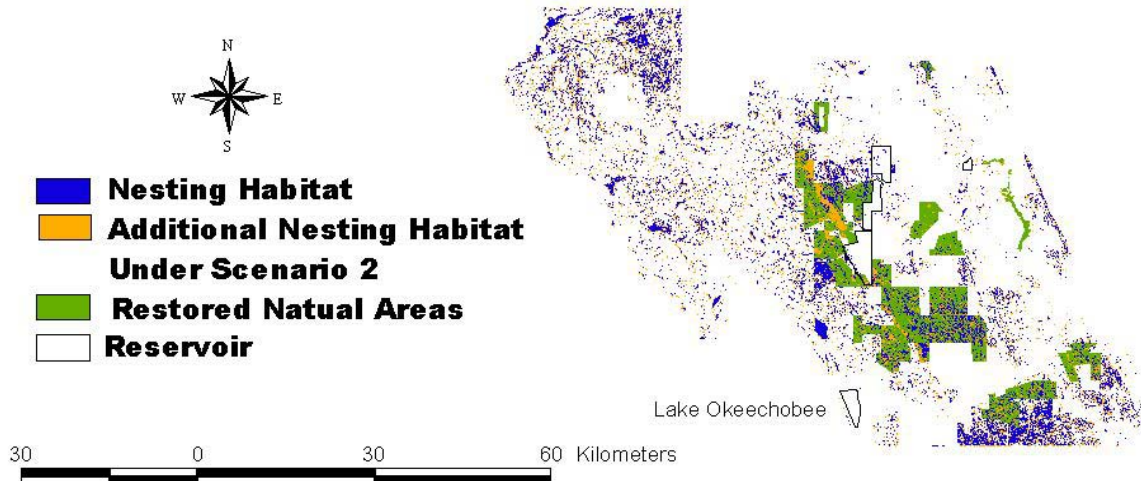
-  Preferred Habitat
-  Useable Habitat
-  FNAI Occurance Points
-  1/2 Dispersal Distance



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Before Site Modifications



150 ha of habitat lost to reservoirs

4000 ha gained with restoration of natural areas

After addition of reservoirs and wetland restoration



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